



# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

517 Fifth Street

Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: (707) 269-1700 Toll-Free (800) 931-RCEA Fax: (707) 269-1777

E-mail: [info@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:info@redwoodenergy.org) Web: [www.redwoodenergy.org](http://www.redwoodenergy.org)

---

January 22, 2009

President Michael R. Peevey  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Proposed Alternate Decision for A.07-07-015

Dear Commissioner Peevey:

On behalf of the Board of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) I am submitting this letter in support of the Proposed Alternate Decision for Application 07-07-015 which would authorize funding to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for their WaveConnect ocean wave energy demonstration project.

RCEA is a Joint Powers Authority representing the County of Humboldt, the seven incorporated cities in the county, and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. Our mission is to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources available in the region. We are therefore very interested in issues regarding the development of wave energy projects in the nearshore waters along the Humboldt County coast.

Wave energy promises to be a source of abundant clean renewable energy, but as it is yet in the pre-commercial stage, little is known about its true technical and economic viability or its long-term impacts on the environment and nearby communities. To help develop information that will be essential to guiding evaluation of full-scale commercial wave energy projects, RCEA supports PG&E's proposal to conduct a three year research project off Humboldt County's Coast under the terms of its FERC permit. The proposed Alternate Decision for A.07-07-015 would authorize \$2 million in funds to help begin this evaluation. We would like to see these funds approved quickly, followed by the eventual authorization for the full \$6 million needed for this study phase.

In light of our need for energy security, mitigation of climate change, and economic development, the importance of renewable energy development has never been greater. RCEA encourages you to give strong consideration to PG&E's application for WaveConnect funding.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Boyd, Executive Director  
Redwood Coast Energy Authority

DCB:DCB

---